**Guidance for the Collection of a Stool Specimen**

**for Norovirus Testing**

1. A diarrhoeal stool is “a liquid stool” i.e. the stool takes shape of the container.
2. Ensure healthcare worker is wearing appropriate PPE, i.e. disposable gloves and aprons.

1. Place a wide mouth container (potty, empty plastic food container e.g. 1 litre ice cream carton) in the toilet bowl, or put clean newspaper or plastic wrap over the toilet seat opening (this prevents the faecal/stool specimen from falling into the toilet bowl). Please note the collection container does not have to be sterile, but must be clean.
2. Direct resident to pass stool into the potty, plastic container, newspaper or plastic wrap.
3. Using the spoon built into the lid of the collection tube, place small scoopfuls of stool from into the tube. PLEASE DO NOT OVERFILL.
4. Try not to spill stool on the outside of the tube.
5. Replace the collection tube lid and screw on tightly.
6. Dispose of remaining stool in potty, plastic container or newspaper down the toilet. Clean potty with hot soapy water or place into washer disinfector. Wrap plastic container, newspaper or plastic wrap in newspaper and dispose of as clinical waste.
7. Remove PPE and wash your hands thoroughly in warm running water with soap and dry thoroughly with a paper towel.
8. Label the collection tube with resident’s name, date of birth and date the stool specimen was collected. Mark specimen request form for “Norovirus testing”
9. Place the container in the plastic bag attached to the specimen request form.
10. Deliver specimens to the GP surgery as soon as possible.
11. Please note the laboratory will only test together (as a pooled sample), a minimum of three separate resident’s specimens.

